

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ID, UK

SUBJECT: BURMAH OIL LNG TANKERS

1. WALL STREET JOURNAL DEC 10 REPORTS THAT SECRETARY RICHARDSON HAS RECENTLY WRITTEN CONGRESSMAN ASPIN, STATING THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO LEAVE DECISION ON GENERAL DYNAMICS TITLE XI MORTGAGE GUARANTEE APPLICATION TO INCOMING ADMINISTRATION AND THAT ACTION WILL THEREFORE BE TAKEN ON IT BY JAN 19. ARTICLE REPORTS SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S AWARENESS OF IMPORTANT FACT THAT PERTAMINA HAS OPTION OF CANCELING AGREEMENT WITH BURMAH TANKERS IF USG HAS NOT ANNOUNCED BINDING TITLE XI COMMITMENT BY JAN 31. ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT HIS DECISION WILL BE STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY THE FINDINGS OF AN ONGOING SEC INVESTIGATION INTO 1) A CERTAIN BURMAH OIL SUBSIDIARY PAYMENT TO TONGSUN PARK AND 2) BURMAH'S ASSURANCES THAT ALL SECRET SHAREHOLDERS IN BURMAH EAST SHIPPING CO., (BURMAH OIL TANKERS SUBSIDIARY WITH WHICH PERTAMINA HAS SIGNED THE TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT), INCLUDING CERTAIN INDONESIANS ALLEGED TO BE HIDING BEHIND A HONG KONG FRONT COMPANY, HAVE BEEN PUSHED OUT. ARTICLE ALSO REFERS TO ONGOING GAO REVIEW OF MARAD'S HANDLING OF LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM, AS WELL AS HOUSE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE'S

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CURRENT INQUIRIES INTO SAME SUBJECT. (DESK OFFICER TALKED

WITH COMMITTEE STAFF ON DEC 10.).

2. MARAD INFORMS DESK THAT NEW YORK JUDGE HEARD ARGU-
MENTS DEC 10 ON JUSTICE DEPT'S MOTION TO DISMISS
MRS. GREENBERG'S SUIT AND HAS PROMISED TO RENDER DECISION
BY END OF YEAR. KISSINGER

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